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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q62174

Shinji KOYANO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/732,705

Group Art Unit: 2644

Confirmation No.: 2917

Examiner: L. Grier

Filed: December 11, 2000

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2002, please consider the following remarks:

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7 are allowed. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 16 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

All of the following rejections are under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 1 is rejected over Hayase (US 5,191,619) in view of Matsuda et al. (US 4,488,012, hereafter "Matsuda"). Claim 1 is also rejected over Noro (US 4,969,495) in view of Matsuda. Claim 2 is rejected over Noro, Matsuda, and Yokoyama (US 5,009,280). Claims 8, 11, 13, 15, and 17 are rejected over Noro in view of Matsuda. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.